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The TV-TS Tapestry

The TV-TS Tapestry is a publication of the Tiffany Club (a social and service organization for transvestites, transsexuals, and their friends and relatives). The subscription fee is $15.00 per year. For information, write or call: Tiffany Club, P.O. Box 426, North Hampton, NH 03862, ~~603-964-6668~~. 617-891-8022

MONTHLY REPORT We have been in our new home for a month. It has been a happy month. Never have we had facilities that were so spacious, comfortable, conveniently located, and satisfactory to our needs. The acquisition of Tiffany's new home is without a doubt the most important step in our development thus far.

Those of you who have not had an opportunity to visit Tiffany's new home, try to do so. We know you will be pleased. Call ahead: 617-891-8022

We have only been here a few weeks, but already we have had two successful events, our lingerie party, and Thanksgiving. For the lingerie party we had expected perhaps five to eight people, but more like thirty came, and had a ball. The evening was a chance to party and a chance to climb into a wide selection of absolutely delicious lingerie. Now, what self-respecting TV would not enjoy that? You bet we had a good time!

For Thanksgiving Diane completely outdid herself with a fantastic meal enthusiastically enjoyed by Rhoda, Ray, Connie, Kay, Marilyn, Kathy and me. Then to top off a great meal Kathy had the audacity to bring tapes of 'the Choir Boys' and 'Animal House'. One does not watch 'Animal House' on a full stomach. However, we, as well as our living room rug, survived. Kay was a doubtful survivor. She laughed so hard she choked, gasped, wheezed, grabbed chairs and walls, and we were sure she was going to have a terrible accident. But she didn't, and I understand she had a good time. We all had a good time, thanks to Diane and Kathy.

(On saturday, Dec. 22 we are having our Christmas dinner, and Nancy will be our hostess. She seems to think she can outdo Diane's dinner. Heee Heee!)

Our first month was a huge success. From here we can see only growth and happiness, and that's a beautiful way to go.

LOVE,

Merissa Sherrill Lynn

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- A REPORT ON FANTASIA FAIR '79' -

Introduction by Merissa Sherrill Lynn
Article by Delores C.

Delores is our Fantasia correspondant, and her article follows this brief introduction.

Ariadne Kane has done many things to serve our people. She has sponsored weekend galas, workshops and seminars, has written, lectured and appeared on radio and television. Her greatest project though, and the project that has the greatest value to those of us who crossdress, is Fantasia Fair. The Fair is nine days en femme of learning, of making friends, and just plain having a wonderful time.

Credit for the success of this marvelous project goes first to Fantasia Fair's director, Ariadne. Credit then goes to the troops who make it work, Diane Berry the logistics coordinator, Jara Chandler the Fair coordinator, to Delores for the talent show, Betsy for the fashion show, Paula the coordinator for the beauty workshops, Linda Franklin for the Town and Gown, and Rachia Heyelman who coordinated all outside activities.

More than to the coordinators of the Fair, an enormous and warmly felt thank you goes to the people of Provincetown, and particularly to the managers of the guest houses in which we stayed. Headquarters was the Gifford House, and Gene did everything to make us feel welcome, even to the extent of installing long mirrors and bright lights so the ladies could admire their gorgeous selves. Then of course Bob of the Crown and Anchor who has been our special friend since the Fair began five years ago, and Bob and Hal of the Hargood House who not only opened their apartments to us, but sponsored a cocktail party exclusively for our benifit. Finally, there is of course Mark and Horace of Ocean's Inn, absolutely two of the nicest people anyone could hope to meet. (Make pretty fine baked stuffed mushrooms too.)

Most of all though the Fair belongs to the participants, to the newtimers (such as Sharon who gained fame by handcuffing Diane to a chair) and oldtimers, to those from near and far (such as Denise from the Cape, and Cecily and Leslie from England), and to the talented and beautiful, and to the not so talented, but still beautiful. Who can forget Kathleen winning the sensuality contest, or Michelle's version of Dolly Parton, or Vancouver B.C.'s wonderfully talented Dorothy, or Frances, or Elanda, or Nancy, or Ramona, or Grace, or Virginia, or Glenda, or all the other marvelous ladies who attended? The Fair is a story of happiness, of friendship, and of being and feeling beautiful. I for one am looking forward to returning.

Merissa Sherrill Fyne

FF ARTICLE
by Delores C.

Well one of the major events for people of our persuasion has come and gone. As near as I can tell, a good time was had by all. My guess is that there was an average attendance of 75 people covering a population of 100-125 persons.

As usual the smorgasboard of events was too much for anyone to absorb in its entirety, but it was fun trying. The main problem was that the week went by too fast. The usual oldtimers were there as well as many new faces. The TS population seemed to be down considerably from 1978. FF central was at the Gifford House. The unoocupied restaurant area was ideal for the seminars and consignment shop sales, but it left something to be desired from a social contact point of view. In my mind the Crown and Anchor is still the best place to sit and meet friends. This year because of the high usage of the Gifford House facilities the Crown and Anchor was a little lonely compared to past years.

DELORES C. - Coordinator of FF '79' Fanfare Follies Talent Show (the best ever at Fantasia)

My major activity was coordinating the Fanfare Follies, which took gobs of time. The show was rated 'the best ever', and that is a real tribute to the hard work done by the performers, excellent stage management by Doniva and the super job done by Linda Johnson in getting all the sound and music on a single tape so that having the right sound at the right time was automatic. (No searching for Paula's record and trying to cue a certain section, while simultaneously controlling stage lighting, etc. etc.)

The most lasting impression made on me was by Betty Johnson. I met Betty during the second weekend. My spouse was with me at the time and we were both

enamored by Betty's open and candid observations. The simple statement "I need Fantasia Fair", so honestly said and simply explained make me happy to be part of the fair, and gave me the assurance that not all that I do is motivated from self need. Everyone that contributes to the success of the Fair including those that just attend can take pride in the fact that there is more giving at the Fair than taking. The mutual support evidenced by the participants leaves all of us a bit richer.

If you have never been to the Fair, you really should try to make it. Yes it is a bit expensive, but you should realize that the profits accrue to the Outreach Institute. This foundation is probably the most professional organization serving the crossdressing community in existance in this country and possibly the world. The principles of the Outreach Institute can be summed up in a single sentence; it offers help to all of us, according to our need. We all need a better informed society and greater tolerance. Some of us need more specific help with family problems or therapeutic counseling. Outreach tries to cover all these needs, and I for one see the need for funding the organization. It is not a social club, but a hard working group attempting to make positive progress on a rocky road. The proceeds of the Fair then, are used to make all our lives better. If you think it should be run differently, join in, volunteer your services and ideas. Be constructive in your criticisms.

But finally, join us at the Fair in 1980!

By Delores C.

NOTE: Tiffany's phone # is 617-891-8022

COMING EVENTS

TIFFANY CLUB 617-891-8022

OPEN MEETINGS: 7-11pm Tuesdays and Saturdays. Quiet and relaxed evenings among friends. Help with make-up and comportment upon request. BYOB - BYOF

FEES: Guests $6.00 Special Members $5.00
Guest, General and Keyholder memberships, no charge

BUSINESS MEETING: Tuesday, Dec. 11 8:30 to 9:30 pm. The purpose of this meeting is to outline our programs for next year. This is a very important meeting, so if you can make it, please do. If you cannot, then call.

CHRISTMAS DINNER: Saturday, December 22. I believe this is intended to be a dressy early evening affair, but Nancy is our hostess, and she hasn't made her plans known to me. We will have to know how many if you are planning to attend prior to the purchase of food, so let us know as soon as possible.

The cost of the food will be shared by those attending, and a guest fee will be charged those who are not Guest, General or Keyholder members.

KAY MAYFLOWER SOCIETY 617-254-7389 ask for Kay

OPEN MEETINGS: 7-11pm every Wednesday

MONTHLY PARTY: Last Saturday of every month.

ALBANY TVIC

MONTHLY MEETINGS: Third Saturday of each month from September to June. For information write: William Thordsen, 1104 Broadway, Albany, NY 12200

OUTREACH INSTITUTE For information on all events, write: Outreach Institute, Kenmore Station, Box 368, Boston, Mass. 02215

MARCH GALA WEEKEND: March 14-16 Last year's Gala included workshops, cocktail parties, and The Harvard Hasty Pudding show.

SPRING FANTASIA FAIR: May 9 - 18 A similar schedule as the Fall FF

FALL FANTASIA FAIR: October 17-26 See Delores' article for details

GREEN APPLE LOUNGE: (Rt 1 Peabody Mass., Mr. John Prop., 617-535-9840) F.I. shows seven nights a week 9:30pm and 12;30pm weekends, 8:45pm and 11:45pm Weekdays

SHANGRI LA: Annual TV event held in Gulfport, Miss. April 9-13, 1980. For information: Nancy Watson, P.O. box 18202 Irvine, Cal. 92713

Misc. Thought

There is nothing wrong with the desire to crossdress.
There is something desperately wrong with thinking there is something wrong with the desire to crossdress.

BULLETIN BOARD

KIM & CHRISTINES BAR

The official opening date is now Friday, Dec. 7 A TV bar with pvt dressing rooms, and FI shows. Come and enjoy!

TEMPTATIONS BAR
2090 Jericho Turnpike
East Northport, L.I. NY
516-543-9018

OVERNIGHT

Overnight space is now available, but there is no linin, and a limited supply of blankets. If you are planning to stay overnight, please bring your own linin.

TIFFANY CLUB'S PHONE
617-891-8022

TOWELS

Other than paper towels, there are no towels for general use. If you need a towel for bathing, make-up removal, etc., please bring your own.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES of interest to crossdressers (no B&D, lady wrestlers, etc.), and LIVING ROOM FURNITURE (no more folding chairs)
WANTED!!!!!

ARIADNE KANE will be on the Phil Donahue show. The show will be taped in late December, and aired in January. Watch local programing for date and time.

- FORUM -

(The Forum is for exploring what we think, what we feel, what we say and do, for exploring our difficulties, our guilts and fears, and how we can overcome them. The Forum is not for fiction or fantasy or technical articles. Rather, it is for talk, for thought, for understanding ourselves and one another, and for sharing ourselves with others.)

WHAT IS A WOMAN?

by
Merissa Sherrill Lynn

If we define a woman as an adult female, we have a definition that may be perfectly true, but we also have a definition that is completely irrelevent and unworkable. Human beings are simply too comlicated to fit into that kind of definition. For instance, suppose we say a female is a person with XX chromosomes (a more accurate definition than saying females are people who menstrate, gestate and lactate). Since chromosomes have no personality that

I know of. They don't think, feel, say or do anything, and since we define our humanness, our gender roles, our womanhood or manhood in terms of our feelings and actions, to say a woman is an adult female may be a true but completely worthless definition. It defines a biological condition, not a person.

If a woman is nothing more than an adult female, and since an adult female is nothing more than a biological entity, then what does it mean to day, "I feel like a woman"? What authority defines how a mere biological entity is to feel, to act, what she is to look like and what she is to wear? Who gives humanness, personality, real human relevance to the word 'woman'? Religious and social leaders have their theories, but ultimately the real authority is people, human beings, not God, or social convention (which were created by people in the first place).

MERISSA SHERRILL LYNN

So people give relevance to the word 'woman'. Now we have a real problem. Humans have the power to create modes of being such as womanhood and manhood, to assign 'proper' actions and feelings to those modes of being, and to say these actions and feelings have meaning. The problem is, as you may have noticed, people have a tendancy to disagree. This tendancy means that since only people can give meaning to actions and feelings, and since so many people are going to disagree, any meaning we try to give to a definition or feeling or action is going to produce a definition that is useless as well as meaningless. Now, since universally acceptable biological definitions are unworkable, and since human definitions are universally unacceptable, where are we?

(I find it true but ironic that what is relevant to humans has no meaning, and that that has meaning is irrelevant.)

The solution lies with ourselves, within each of us as individual human beings. Each of us has the power to thing and feel, and each of us has the power to assign a meaning to what we think and feel. Nothing and no one else has that power, or that right. (Though social and religious influences do their best to try.) Therefore each of us, not collectively as a group but as individuals, has the power to define what a woman feels like, how she should look, and how she should act. Only on this individual level does the term 'womanhood' become both relevant and meaningful.

If I think I am a woman, then I am a woman, and it doesn't make a bit of difference what any biologist, psychologist, back room philosopher, or religious, political or social doctrine says. I am exactly what I think I am.

For human beings, for creatures whose mode of being is so far removed from mere biological fact, this is the only workable definition of womanhood: "A woman is, acts and feels exactly what each individual thinks a woman is, acts and feels. No more, no less."

Womanhood is not a universal quality as biologists and many others would have you believe. It is an individual quality, different for everyone both in understanding, and application. I could tell you to the best of my ability what womanhood and being a male woman means to me, but that would not give you an understanding of what womanhood means to you. Only you can do that.

COGITO FEMINA ERGO SUM FEMINA!

-END-